

STORY 62.

A GREAT SACRIFICE IN THE CAUSE OF
TRUTH AND RIGHT.

AFTER the death of (Hazrat) Hassan the Khilafat devolved on his younger brother (Hazrat) Hussain. But Yazid, the son of Muaviya, too claimed the Khilafat and he wanted to enforce his claim at the point of the sword, so he determined to remove all rivals possible or actual from his path by any means fair or foul. His headquarters were at Damascus in Syria while those of (Hazrat) Hussain were at Medina. Yazid tried to persuade (Hazrat) Hussain through the chief Muslims of the day to swear allegiance to him, and promised that in return for this surrender of his rights he would bestow upon him great favours. But (Hazrat) Hussain rejected all his overtures with disdain, because Yazid was not fit to be a Khalifa on account of his profligacy and un-Islamic life.

In the meantime the people of Kufa invited (Hazrat) Hussain to their city assuring him of their loyal support against Yazid. (Hazrat) Hussain was taken in by this assurance and went there with only a few followers. But the wily and treacherous people of Kufa played him false. He was betrayed and surrounded by an army of Yazid at Karbala where he put up a heroic fight for ten days. He and his companions were not allowed to have water from the river which flowed

at barely a stone's throw, and thus thirsty and hungry they were killed one by one until (Hazrat) Hussain was left alone. He fought, but his superhuman bravery availed him little against the heavy odds opposed to him. At last he too fell a martyr to truth and right.